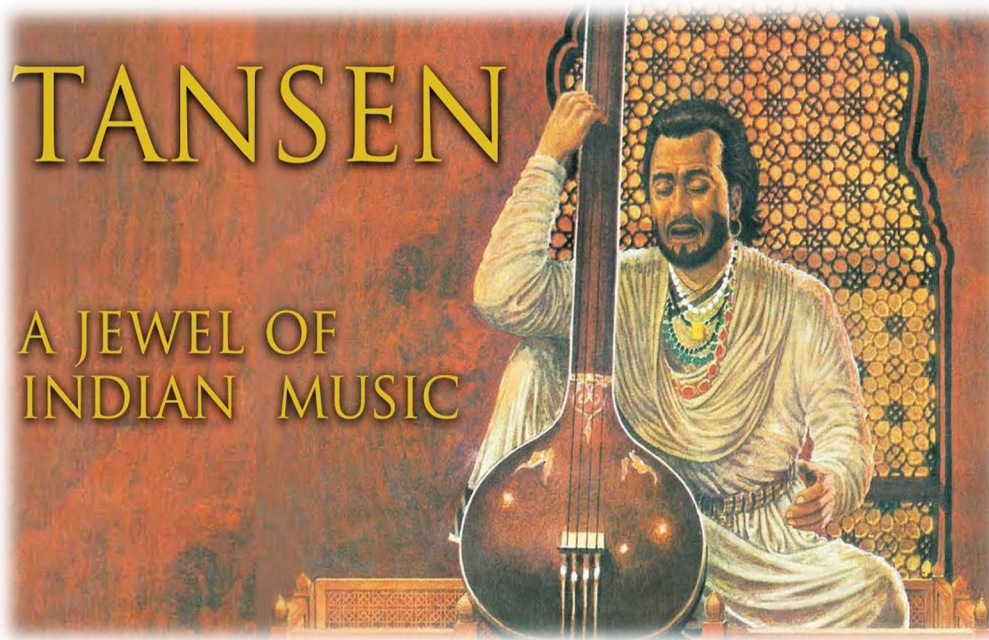


Greatest Of All Times

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Globally selected
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C. 1493 <::><::><::> 26 Apr 1589

Compiled by:
Prof Dr S Ramalingam
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26 April 1589

Monarch of Hindustani Music

Tansen

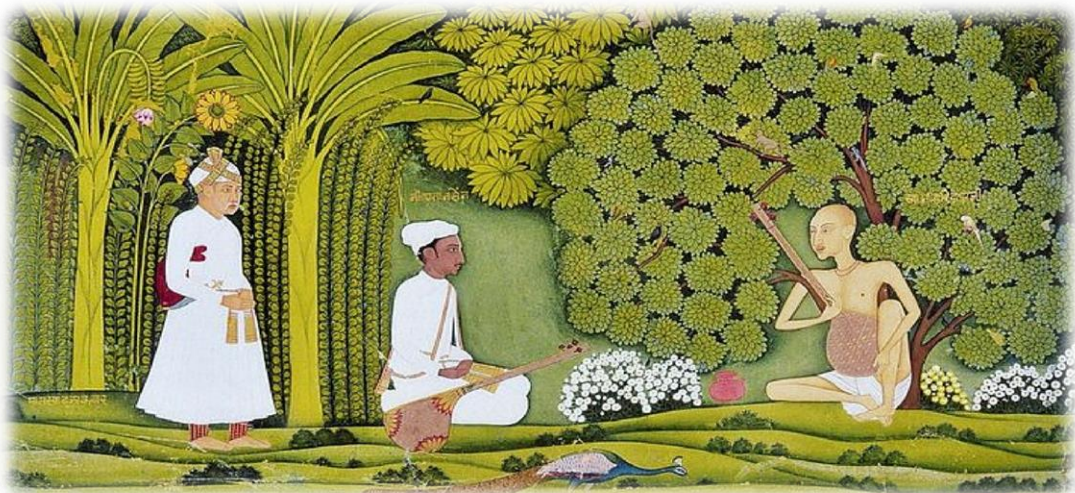
The Musical Legend

<https://thebetterindia.com/133351/tansen-ragas-hindustani-legend/>

By Anakha Arikara

6 March 2018

One of Akbar's prized gems, Tansen was a musical maestro whose story walks the fine line between fact and fairytale. Nevertheless, his ragas are believed to have formed the basis for Hindustani music!



Tansen, along with Akbar and Swami Haridas.

Tansen is a complex enigma in Indian history. The tales of greatness that surround his person include incredible anecdotes of elephants that were tamed by his music, rains that poured when he sang in raga Megh Malhar, and extinguished lamps that were lit by his rendition of raga Deepak. To top it all off, they claim he could produce any sound, from a lion's roar to a bird's chirp!

In fact, it is difficult to confirm which part of his life was fact, and which was a fairytale.

Nevertheless, to many gharanas, or schools, of Hindustani music, Tansen is widely regarded as the one who started it all.

Some reports claim that Tansen was born with the name Ramtanu, to a prominent poet and musician, called Mukund Pandey. He showed an extraordinary prowess for music as early as the age of 6 and was taken to Swami Haridas, an accomplished musician, to learn the art. It is rumoured that his education in the arts took place in Gwalior.

Other stories claim that Tansen was born deaf and dumb, and it was only after he was blessed by a saint that he gained hearing and speech.

Either way, popular sources agree that he spent much of his life as the court musician of Raja Ramchandra Singh. Here, he flourished, and his talent earned him the recognition of Mughal emperor, Akbar himself.

Tansen, who at the time was close to 60 years of age, considered retiring to a life of solitude, but at the encouragement of the Raja, was sent to Akbar's court. The emperor bestowed upon him the title "Mian," meaning "learned one," and he became one of Akbar's Navratnas. You can read more about the Navratnas of Akbar's court [here](#).

His compositions are believed to have formed the foundation for Hindustani classical music.

His ragas brought forth melodies that are still sung today, and his legacy continues through his music.

Here are five ragas that are believed to be associated with the legend that is Mian Tansen. This is by no means an extensive list, but all these ragas hold a significant place in the myths that surround Tansen.

1. Miyan ki Malhar

Perhaps the most famous story which surrounds Tansen is that when he sang Megh Malhar, the skies would pour with rain. His alleged wife, Husseini, is believed to have sung this raga as an attempt to save her husband as he was being engulfed in flames. His own version of the Malhar raga is known as Miyan ki Malhar. You can hear a modern version of Miyan ki Malhar below

2. Deepak

The tale goes thus. Akbar, who was enamoured by Tansen's musical prowess, requested that he sing Deepak, the raga of fire. Knowing what would happen, he requested that all the lamps be extinguished. As he broke into song, the lamps lit on their own and engulfed him in flames. While he did not create this raga, it is said that his rendition had a special power.

3. Miyan ki Todi

A gentle raga, the Todi scale was reinvented by Tansen himself, leading to the name Miyan ki Todi.

4. Miyan ki Sarang

A raga which is part of the Sarang family, Miyan ki Sarang is generally sung in the late afternoon.

5. Darbari Kannada

A complex raga, which is difficult to master, Darbari Kannada is best sung towards the evening. Its grave, contemplative undertones make for a mesmerising melody. The name "Darbari" itself is said to have been derived from Tansen's time in court.

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The Legend of Mian Tansen

<https://serenademagazine.com/the-legend-of-mian-tansen/>

Mian Tansen, born as Ramtanu Pandey in the late 15th century, stands as a legendary figure in the realm of Hindustani Classical Music. Renowned as the 'Sangeet Samrat' or 'Monarch of Hindustani Music,' his life, spanning nearly a century, is a tale of musical brilliance, royal patronage, and a cultural bridge between the Hindu and Muslim traditions.

Early Life and Education

While the exact date and place of Tansen's birth remain unclear, historical accounts place it around 1493 or 1500 in Gwalior, in the Tomar Kingdom, now part of modern-day Madhya Pradesh, India. Born into a Gaur Brahmin family, Tansen was named Ramtanu by his father Mukund Ram, a wealthy poet and accomplished musician.

Tansen's musical journey began in the region around Gwalior, where he honed his skills and gained fame under the patronage of Raja Ramchandra Singh. Under the influence of Swami Haridas, a Hindu bhakti saint and poet-musician, and later, the Sufi mystic Muhammad Ghaus, Tansen's musical prowess flourished, creating a unique fusion of Hindu and Muslim traditions.

Court and Patronage

Tansen spent the early part of his career in the court of Raja Ramchandra Singh, where he became a close confidant and musical companion of the king. Akbar, the Mughal Emperor, recognized Tansen's exceptional talent and sent messengers to request his presence at the Mughal court. Despite Tansen's initial reluctance, he joined Akbar's court in 1562, around the age of 60, becoming one of the Navaratnas or Nine Jewels of the court.

Akbar, impressed by Tansen's musical prowess, bestowed upon him the honorific title 'Mian,' signifying a learned man. Tansen's influence in Akbar's court played a crucial role in bridging the gap between Hindu and Muslim musical traditions, fostering harmony in the diverse Mughal Empire.

Contributions to Hindustani Classical Music

Tansen's legacy in Hindustani classical music is monumental. As a composer, musician, and vocalist, he enriched the musical landscape with his epic Dhrupad compositions and the creation of several new ragas. His contributions extended to the popularization and improvement of musical instruments. Tansen's 16th-century studies in music inspired many, and he is revered as the founder of numerous North Indian gharanas, or regional music schools.

Among his notable works are two classic books on music, "Sri Ganesh Stotra" and "Sangita Sara." Tansen's compositions covered diverse themes, employing Dhrupad and drawing inspiration from Hindu Puranas. He

composed in Braj Bhasha, highlighting the shift from Sanskrit to the local idiom during the Bhakti tradition.

Personal Life and Legacy

Tansen's family life was marked by his marriage to a Hussaini, with whom he had four sons and one daughter. All five children became proficient musicians, carrying forward their father's musical legacy. Legends even suggest a marriage to Akbar's daughter, Mehrunissa.

The exact year of Tansen's death remains a subject of debate, with conflicting accounts. While some Islamic historians propose 1586, Hindu historians and Akbarnama suggest 26 April 1589. Tansen's final resting place is in the mausoleum complex of his Sufi master, Shaikh Muhammad Ghaus, in Gwalior. The annual Tansen Samaroh in December celebrates his memory.

Popular Culture and Recognition

Tansen's life has been depicted in several Hindi films, such as "Tansen" (1943), "Tansen" (1958), and "Sangeet Samrat Tansen" (1962). These films, although anecdotal, capture the essence of his musical journey and cultural impact.

Tansen's legacy endures through the Tansen Samaroh, an annual music festival held near his tomb, and the prestigious Tansen award presented to exponents in Hindustani Classical music. The fort at Fatehpur Sikri, associated with Tansen's tenure at Akbar's court, stands as a testament to his musical contributions.

Miracles and Legends

Tansen's life is embellished with legends, blending fact and fiction. Stories of inducing rain with Raga Megh Malhar and lighting lamps with Raga Deepak showcase his mythical prowess. Tansen's ability to communicate with animals, as well as calming a fierce elephant through his music, adds to the mystique surrounding his persona.

Conclusion

Mian Tansen's life and legacy are intertwined with the rich tapestry of Indian classical music. His journey from the courts of Raja Ramchandra Singh to

the illustrious Mughal court of Akbar exemplifies his cultural significance. Tansen's musical innovations, compositions, and harmonious blend of diverse traditions have left an indelible mark, shaping the course of Hindustani classical music for generations to come. The annual Tansen Samaroh and the enduring recognition through the Tansen award stand as tributes to the enduring legacy of this musical maestro.



Tansen

<https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tansen>

Tansen Baghel (Tan Sen Baghel, Ramtanu)



Tansen of Gwalior,
a Mughal painting (1585-90)^[1]

Background information

Birth name	Ramtanu baghel
Born	26 April 1506 Behat, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
Died	26 April 1586 (aged 86) Agra ^[2]
Genres	Hindustani Classical Music
Occupation(s)	musician, instrumentalist, vocalist, music studies

Years active	Till 1562: Raja Ramchandra Singh, Rewa (princely state) After 1562: Emperor Akbar
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Tansen (c. 1500 – 26 April 1586), also known to as **Tan Sen** or **Ramtanu**, was a well known person of [North Indian](#) (Hindustani) [classical music](#). He was born in a Hindu family in the historic city of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (The city known for its rich music heritage). He learned and perfected and mastered his art in the Gwalior region of modern [Madhya Pradesh](#) under Swami Haridas. Tansen was the title given to him by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior. He rose to fame and spent most of his adult life in the [court](#) and [patronage](#) of the Hindu king of Bandhavgarh (Rewa), Raja Ramchandra Singh (r.1555–1592). He became famous for his musical abilities and studies. [Mughal](#) Emperor [Akbar](#) sent messengers to Raja Ramchandra Singh , requesting Tansen to join the musicians at the Mughal court. In 1562, about the age of 60, the [Vaishnava](#) musician Tansen joined the [Akbar](#) court.

Tansen was a [composer](#), [musician](#) and [vocalist](#). He has been [attributed](#) for large number of compositions in northern regions of the [Indian subcontinent](#). He was also an [instrumentalist](#) who made musical instruments better and popular. [Akbar](#) considered him as a [Navaratnas](#) (nine jewels). He gave him the title Mian in his honor, meaning learned man.

There are many legends about Tansen in Akbar court historian accounts and *gharana* literature. One of them says that he could bring down the rains with [Raga Megh Malhar](#). It is also said that he could light lamps by performing Raga Deepak. Other legends talk about his ability to communicate with animals through his music. Once, a white elephant was captured, but it was wild and could not be controlled. Finally, Tansen sang to the elephant who calmed down and the emperor was able to ride him.

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Tansen's tomb in Gwalior



Tansen in Emperor Akbar's Court along with Todarmal, Abul Fazal, Faizi and Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana c.16th century



Stamp of India depicting Tansen



TANSEN

<https://www.culturalindia.net/indian-music/classical-singers/tansen.html>

Fast Facts

Date of Birth: 1501

Place of Birth: Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Birth Name: Ramtanu

Date of Death: 1586

Place of Death: Agra

Profession: Vocalist, music composer, instrumentalist

Spouse: Husseini

Children: Hamirsen, Suratsen, Tanras Khan, Saraswati Devi and Bilas Khan

Father: Mukund Mishra

Awards: The title '**Miyan**' was conferred upon him by Akbar

Considered as the greatest musician in India, Tansen is credited with the creation of the classical music that dominates the north of India (Hindustani classical music). Tansen was a vocalist and instrumentalist who created many ragas. He was initially the court singer of King Ram Chand of Rewa State. It is said that Emperor Akbar made him into his own musician after learning about his extraordinary musical skills. He went on to become one of the Navaratnas (Nine Gems) in the court of Mughal Emperor Akbar. The life of Tansen is associated with many legends. Some of the most common ones are his ability to create rain and fire by just using his musical skills. Whatever the legends may be, there is no denying the fact that he was the greatest among all musicians this country has ever produced.

Childhood

Tansen was born into a Hindu family at Gwalior in present day Madhya Pradesh. His father, Mukund Mishra, was a famous poet and a wealthy person. Tansen was named Ramtanu at the time of his birth. As a child, Tansen could mimic birds and animals perfectly. It is said that he used to scare many priests and commoners passing through the forests by imitating wild animals like tigers and lions. Legend has it that Tansen was once imitating a tiger when he was spotted by Swami Haridas, a legendary saint and musician cum poet. Swami Haridas recognized Tansen's skills and accepted him as his disciple.

Education

Tansen began his musical journey at a young age when he was chosen as a disciple by Swami Haridas. He studied music under him for the next ten years of his life. Since Haridas was an exponent of the Dhrupad style of singing, Tansen developed an interest towards Dhrupad. It is said that Tansen learnt everything that he could learn from his master. Legend has it that Tansen, after completing his education, had no equal in the field of music apart from his guru.

Influence of Muhammad Ghaus

It is said that Tansen was depressed after the death of his father. He became withdrawn from the outside world and would spend time by singing at a Shiva temple. During this difficult phase of his, Muhammad Ghaus, a Sufi mystic is said to have had a calming effect on him. It is he who influenced Tansen to embrace Islam. It is also claimed that Muhammad Ghaus had also doubled up as Tansen's music teacher for a long time, a claim which is debatable even today. It is also said that Muhammad Ghaus was instrumental in Tansen learning about sufism, a mystical system in which he would fall in love with, later in his life.

Singing in Akbar's Court

Tansen was working as a singer in the court of King Ram Chand of Rewa State. His musical skills were such that, stories of his talent and greatness spread all over. Soon, Akbar came to know about this incredible musician and the great emperor couldn't help but summon Tansen in his court. Soon after, Tansen became Akbar's favorite singer and counted among the Navaratnas (Nine extraordinary people with different skill sets) in the emperor's court. It is also said that Akbar presented him with one lakh gold coins upon his first

performance in the emperor's court. Akbar's admiration for Tansen is well documented. It is even said that other musicians and ministers were jealous of Tansen, for he was Akbar's favorite servant. Tansen was honored with the prefix 'Miya' from Emperor Akbar and from that day onwards he came to be known as MiyaTansen.

Miracles Associated with Tansen

It is said that the great singer could perform many miracles with his singing. A popular legend has it that when Akbar's ministers decided to deliberately bring shame to Tansen, they devised a plan. The ministers approached the emperor and requested him to convince Tansen into singing the Raga Deepak, a raga which was supposed to create fire! Akbar, who was curious to witness the miracle, ordered his servants to place a number of lamps and Tansen was asked to light up those lamps, just by singing. Tansen sung Raga Deepak and all the lamps were lit, all at once!

Other miracles of Tansen include his ability to bring rain by singing Raga Megh Malhar. It is said that Tansen used this particular raga soon after the usage of Raga Deepak. That is because Raga Megh Malhar would cool things down as Raga Deepak would enhance the temperature of the surroundings. While Raga Megh Malhar still exists today, Raga Deepak has been lost in the course of time.

Tansen was also famous for communicating with animals through his music. It is said that once a fierce elephant was brought into the court of Akbar. No one could tame the animal and all hopes were pinned on Tansen. The emperor's favorite singer not only calmed the elephant down with his songs but also encouraged Akbar to ride on it, which according to stories, Akbar did.

Tansen's Compositions

Tansen's compositions were largely based on Hindu puranas (mythological stories). He employed the Dhrupad style in his compositions and often wrote the praise of Hindu deities like Shiva, Vishnu and Ganesha. More often than not, he sang his own compositions at a Shiva temple in his hometown. Tansen's compositions were usually complex and couldn't be understood by ordinary musicians. Later in his life, he started composing songs to eulogize Emperor Akbar and other kings.

Contributions

Tansen composed several ragas including Bhairav, DarbariTodi, DarbariKanada, Malhar, Sarang and Rageshwari. These are all considered as the foundation of classical music. Tansen is considered the founder of Hindustani classical music. In fact, every school of music that exists today in India tries to trace its origin back to him. The Dhrupad style of music is likely to have been started by him and his guru. He is even believed to have classified ragas, making them simpler and easier to understand. His contribution to the world of music is priceless and hence he is still worshipped by leading singers and composers across the world.

Personal Life

There isn't much information available on Tansen's personal life. It is said that he married a woman named Husseini but there is no significant proof backing it. Another version of his marital life has it that he married one of Akbar's daughters. Meherunnissa is said to have fallen in love with Tansen and that was one of the reasons why Tansen was invited to Akbar's court. It is also claimed that Tansen converted to Islam just the night before his wedding with Akbar's daughter, Meherunnissa.

Death of Tansen

Though it is said that Tansen passed away in the year 1586, there are no clear references about the cause of his death. A few legends have it that he was consumed by the flames that he created himself while experimenting with Raga Deepak. However, there are no proofs backing this claim. His mortal remains were buried in Gwalior next to the tomb of Muhammad Ghaus, his Sufi master. It is also said that there is a tamarind tree that has grown over the tomb of Tansen. The person who chews the leaves of this magical tree is said to gain musical knowledge and a good voice, conducive for singing.

Legacy

All of Tansen's five children went on to become great classical singers. Also, a music festival called Tansen Samaroh is held each and every year in Gwalior during the month of December. The festival, which is held near his tomb, attracts thousands of musicians and aspiring singers from all over the country. Tansen Samman is an award that is given away by the government of India to outstanding exponents of Hindustani classical music.

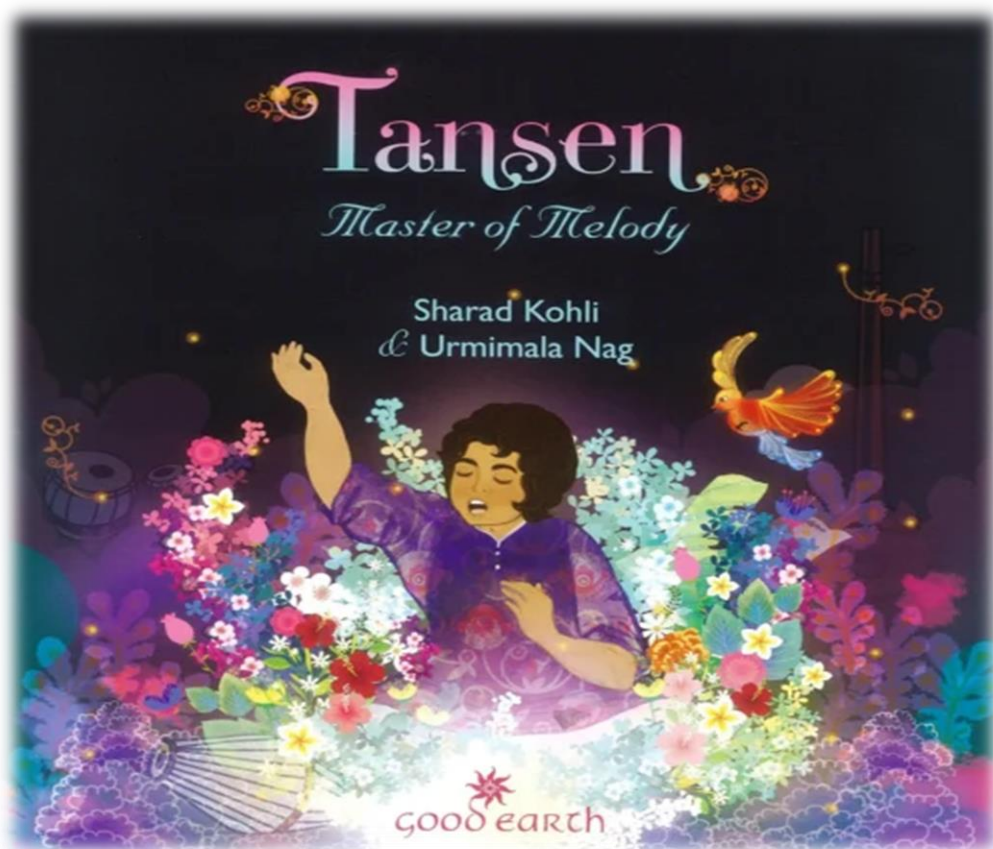
Many films have been produced to showcase the life story of the mystical singer. Some of these movies are 'Tansen' (1943), 'Tansen' (1958), 'Sangeet Samrat Tansen' (1962) and Baiju Bawra (1952). In the late 1980s, Pakistan came up with a television series which delved into the mysterious life of Tansen. Haseena Moin, a writer, came up with the idea, and it was an instant hit in the country.

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BOOK on
TANSEN

[01] The Story of Tansen: Master of Melody

https://littlelearns.com/product/the-story-of-tansen-master-of-melody/?srsltid=AfmBOorg30kSfrwn6639iVKvs-FRTa_LNMUeWQSvZ7kWmwk-wb9uajwG



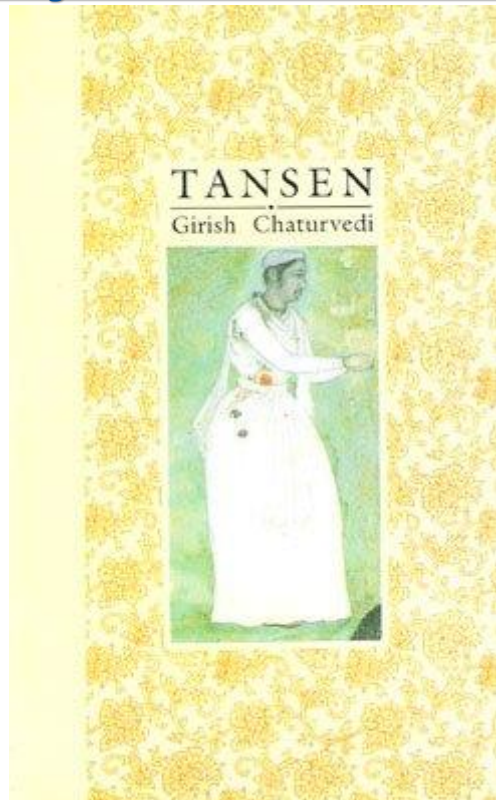
The life story of the 16th century master musician is hardly known, but this beautifully illustrated book, through its clever melding of

fact and some fiction, makes a universe of Tansen's world. The reader is taken on a fascinating journey, from his miraculous birth in a village near Gwalior, through his childhood and early music lessons, to the court of Raja Man Singh Tomar and then to Fatehpur Sikri, where he becomes one of Emperor Akbar's nine jewels. Though the book concludes with his passing, it leaves the reader marvelling at the musical legacy he left behind. History is brought alive with exquisite illustrations on every page that captivate the imagination of children and their parents.

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[02] TANSEN

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13129896>



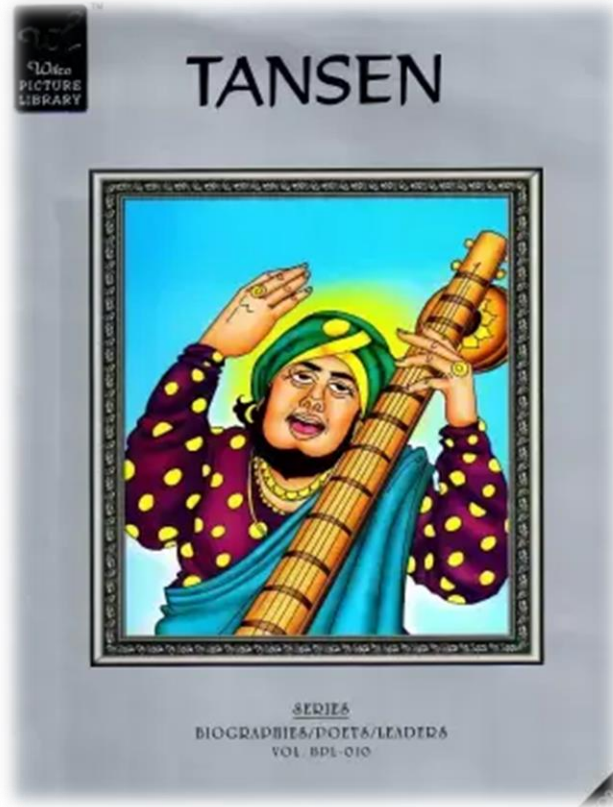
Author: Giresch Chaturvedi

Novel, based on the life of Tansen, d. 1589, musician who adorned the court of Emperor Akbar.

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[03] Tansen | Paperback

<https://bookbond.in/product-detail/tansen-paperback/2678?srsId=AfmBOoo1dcCv6yKW81ohN55bIl7sJdoN5FEpX27IN3LFaOLxIBIsJVV>



This title on this great musician who pioneered the Dhrupad style of singing, narrates his story about how he learnt music from his Hindu as well as Muslim gurus and who also later married a Muslim girl.

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[04] TANSEN The Magical Musician

https://www.nbtindia.gov.in/books_detail_10_nehru-bal-pustakalaya_871_tansen-the-magical-musician.nbt

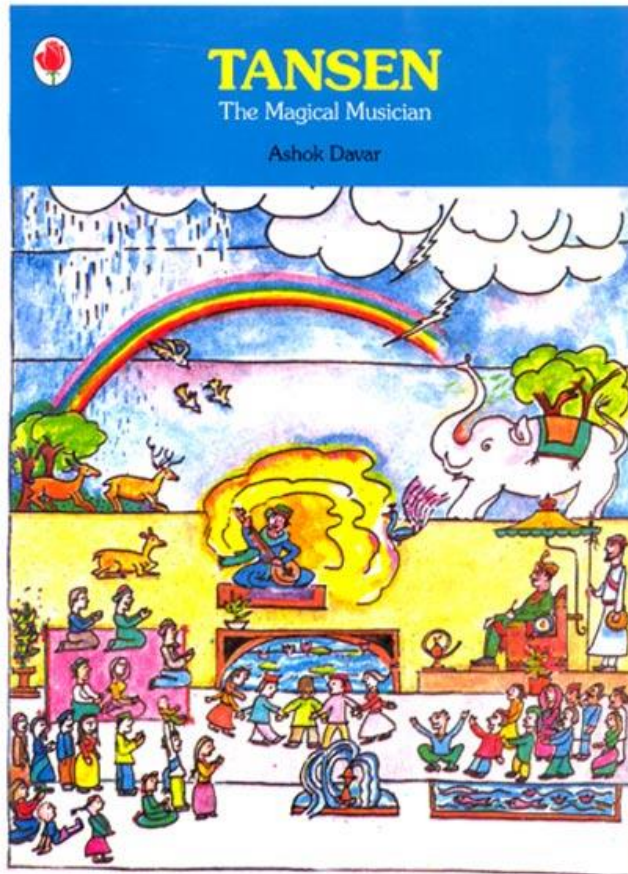


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शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

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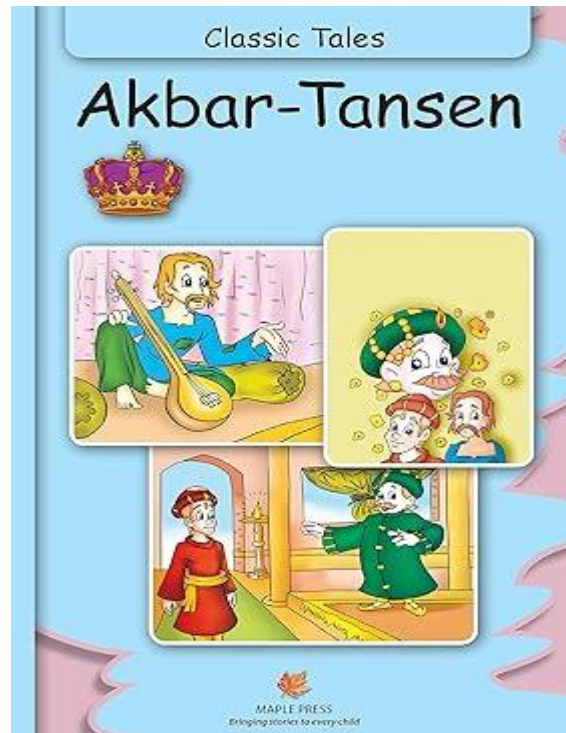
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[05] Akbar-Tansen - Classic Tales (Illustrated)

Kindle Edition

<https://www.amazon.in/Akbar-Tansen-Classic-Illustrated-Maple-Press-ebook/dp/B01ETZ73JW>

by Maple Press (Author, Illustrator)



This is a story about a Mughal King named Akbar and his court.

Akbar had nine important courtiers in his court, including Tansen. One day, the king conducted a competition. What happened after that?

Who won the competition? Let us read the story and find out.

Once upon a time, there was a great Mughal King named Akbar.

His court was very famous. He had nine important courtiers in his court. The nine courtiers were together called as the **'NAVRATNAS'** or the nine gems, and they were very famous.

Tansen was one among the **'NAVRATNAS'**. He was a very famous singer. Akbar was very proud of Tansen.

One afternoon, Akbar gathered everybody.
He then said, 'I have decided to conduct a competition.
I invite somebody to come forward and sing against Tansen'.
Who comes forward to sing against Tansen?
Subscribe for eBook and read the complete story online.

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[06] Musician Tansen

<https://jainebooks.org/authors/188/tansen/books>



Miyan Tansen

Tansen (c. 1493/1500 - 1586), also referred to as Tan Sen or Ramtanu, was a prominent figure of Hindustani classical music. Born in a Hindu family, he learned and perfected his art in the northwest region of modern Madhya Pradesh. He began his career and spent most of his adult life in the court and patronage of the Hindu king of Rewa, Raja Ramchandra Singh (r. 1555-1592), where Tansen's musical abilities and studies gained widespread fame. This reputation brought him to the attention of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, who sent messengers to Raja Ramchandra Singh, requesting Tansen to join the musicians at the Mughal court. Tansen did not want to go, but Raja Ramchandra Singh encouraged him to gain a wider audience, and sent him along with gifts to Akbar. In 1562, about the age of 60, the Vaishnava musician Tansen joined the Akbar court, and his performances became a subject of many court historians. Numerous legends have been written about Tansen, mixing facts and fiction, and the historicity of these stories is doubtful.[6] Akbar considered him as one of the Navaratnas (nine jewels), and

gave him the title Mian, an honorific, meaning learned man. Tansen was a composer, musician and vocalist, to whom many compositions have been attributed in northern regions of the Indian subcontinent. He was also an instrumentalist who popularized and improved musical instruments. He is among the most influential personalities in North Indian tradition of Indian classical music, called Hindustani. His 16th century studies in music and compositions inspired many, and he is considered by numerous North Indian gharana (regional music schools) as their lineage founder. Tansen is remembered for his epic Dhrupad compositions, creating several new ragas, as well as for writing two classic books on music Sri Ganesh Stotra and Sangita Sara.



Navratna of Akbar

<https://vajiramandravi.com/quest-upsc-notes/navratna-of-akbar/>

The **Navratnas of Akbar** (also called **Nine Gems**) were nine distinguished individuals in Emperor Akbar's court, celebrated for their brilliance in various fields such as administration, literature, music, and military strategy. This group included Birbal, Tansen, Abul Fazl, Raja Todar Mal and other figures. Their collective expertise strengthened the Mughal administration and enriched its cultural landscape.

Emperor Akbar encouraged collaboration among scholars, poets, and artists from diverse backgrounds. This integration of talents not only improved governance but also left an enduring cultural legacy, shaping the history of the Mughal Empire.

About Akbar

Akbar (1542-1605), the third Mughal emperor, ruled from 1556 to 1605, establishing the Mughal Empire as a dominant power in India. Known for his military conquests, administrative reforms, and cultural advancements, Akbar promoted religious tolerance, abolished the jizya, and introduced social reforms like prohibiting sati and legalizing

widow remarriage. He refined the *mansabdari* system and introduced Din-i Ilahi, a syncretic religious creed.

What is the Navratna of Akbar?

Navratnas (meaning "Nine Gems") referred to a group of nine distinguished individuals in the royal courts of Indian rulers, symbolizing a council of talented advisors, scholars, or artists. Their expertise significantly enhanced the courts and played a crucial role in reinforcing the rulers' administration and policies.

- **Vikramaditya's Court:** Notable examples include the court of Emperor Vikramaditya, which featured scholars like Kalidasa, a renowned classical Sanskrit writer, best known for his works *Shakuntala* and *Meghaduta*, and Varahamihira, a distinguished astronomer and mathematician.
- **Akbar's Court:** The court of Mughal emperor Akbar included figures like Birbal and Raja Todar Mal, who contributed to the administration and the empire's revenue system.
- **Raja Krishnachandra's Court:** Raja Krishnachandra's 18th-century Bengal court promoted intellectual and cultural development.

Nine Navratna of Akbar

The **Navratnas** or **Nine Gems** were a group of nine extraordinary individuals who served in the court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar. They were known for their exceptional talents and contributions in various fields such as administration, arts, and literature. Following is the nine Navratnas:

1. **Abul Fazl:** Chief advisor and author of the *Akbar Nama*.
2. **Faizi:** Poet laureate and mentor to Akbar's sons.
3. **Tansen:** Renowned singer and Minister of Culture.
4. **Birbal:** Known for his wit and served as the Foreign Minister.
5. **Raja Todar Mal:** Finance Minister.
6. **Raja Man Singh:** Chief of Staff of Akbar's army.

7. **Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana**: Defence Minister and poet.
8. **Fakir Aziao-Din**: Religious Minister.
9. **Mulla Do Piazza**: Home Minister

These individuals played a significant role in the administration and cultural development of the Mughal Empire under Akbar's reign.

Abul Fazl

Abul Fazl was a writer, historian, and politician who served as the chief advisor to the Mughal Emperor Akbar. He served as a military commander whose strategic leadership in the Deccan campaigns helped expand Mughal power against the Sultanates.

- **Contribution:** He was popularly known for his theory of *Padshahat*, which argued that the emperor's rule, as an agent of God, could not be overthrown.
- **Books:** Akbarnama, Ain-i-Akbari, and a Persian translation of the Bible.

Raja Todar Mal

Raja Todar Mal was a key figure in the Mughal Empire during Akbar's reign, serving as Finance Minister (Diwan-i-Ashraff), Vakil-us-Sultanat (Counsellor of the Empire), and Joint Wazir.

- **Contribution:** He is known for reforming the Mughal revenue system by introducing standard weights and measures, implementing a land survey and settlement system, and establishing revenue districts and officers.
- His revenue collection method, "**Todarmal's Bandobast**," involved a 10-year survey of crop yields and prices, which laid the foundation for a cash-based tax system.
- He declared **Persian**, written in the Iranian style, as the official language of the Mughal administration.

Birbal

Birbal, originally named **Mahesh Das**, served as an advisor to Mughal emperor Akbar between 1556 and 1562, earning the title 'Birbal', which means 'quick thinker'. He was one of Akbar's nine prominent advisors, the Navaratnas, and held the rank of commander of two thousand.

- **Contribution:** A Hindu by birth, Birbal embraced Din-i-Ilahi, Akbar's religion, becoming its only Hindu follower.
- Known for his wit, intelligence, and poetic talent, he was a skilled composer of Braj language poetry, and his cleverness is captured in numerous folk tales passed down through oral tradition.

Fakir Aziao-Din

Fakir Aziao-Din was a prominent Sufi mystic and spiritual advisor to Emperor Akbar, known for his profound wisdom and piety. His guidance significantly influenced Akbar's policies on religious tolerance and pluralism, promoting a syncretic culture that aimed for harmony among diverse faiths within the Mughal Empire.

Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana

Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana, widely known as Rahim, was a celebrated poet and a distinguished member of Emperor Akbar's Navaratnas. As the son of Bairam Khan, Akbar's mentor and guardian, Rahim earned acclaim for his Hindustani couplets (dohas) and contributions to astrology.

- He translated Babur's memoirs, the **Baburnama**, from Chagatai into Persian and authored two Sanskrit treatises on astrology.

Faizi

Faizi was a distinguished Indian poet and scholar of the late medieval period. As the elder brother of Abul Fazl, Emperor Akbar's historian,

Faizi was appointed by Akbar as a tutor for his sons Salim, Murad, and Daniyal.

- **Role:** He was appointed the poet laureate in Akbar's court and also served as the *sadr* (religious leader) for Agra, Kalpi, and Kalinjar.
- **Contribution:** Known for his Persian poetry and literary scholarship, Faizi earned acclaim for translating Sanskrit works into Persian, including Bhaskaracharya's mathematical treatise "**Lilavati**."

Tansen

Tansen, also known as Ramtanu, was a renowned Hindustani classical musician of the 16th century. He first served in the court of Raja Ramchandra Singh of Rewa before joining Mughal Emperor Akbar's court in 1562. Akbar held Tansen in high regard, honouring him as one of his Navaratnas (nine jewels) and bestowing upon him the title "Mian," symbolizing scholarly excellence.

- **Contribution:** Tansen's legacy includes his Dhrupad compositions, the creation of new ragas, and the promotion of musical instruments.
- He also founded the **Gwalior Gharana**, a prominent school of Hindustani classical music, which has had a lasting influence on the tradition.

Raja Man Singh

Raja Man Singh, the Maharaja of Amber, was a prominent general in Akbar's Mughal army and a member of the Navaratnas. A devout Hindu and skilled strategist, he helped expand the Mughal Empire through key victories in Kabul, Bihar, and Orissa.

- **Contribution:** He played an important role in the **Battle of Haldighati** against Maharana Pratap.

- Aside from his military feats, Man Singh is remembered for his cultural legacy, including the construction of temples and palaces.

Mulla Do Piyaza

Mulla Do-Piyaza was one of Akbar's prominent advisors, known for his sharp wit and intelligence, earning a place among the emperor's Navratnas. Although he often competed with Birbal, he was frequently outsmarted by him, yet their interactions were a source of much amusement at the Mughal court.

Significance of the Navratnas in Akbar's court

The significance of Akbar's Navratnas lies in their transformative impact on the Mughal Empire's administration, culture, and military strength. These nine distinguished individuals were selected for their exceptional skills and contributions in diverse fields such as literature, music, governance, and warfare.

- For instance, Abul Fazl's political counsel, Tansen's musical brilliance, and Raja Todar Mal's administrative reforms exemplify their enduring influence.
- Military leaders like Raja Man Singh and Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana played vital roles in expanding the empire's territories through successful campaigns.

Thus, their combined expertise strengthened Akbar's rule, leaving a lasting legacy of cultural advancement, administrative efficiency, and religious tolerance.



Dhrupad Music/Compositions

Tansen was a 16th century musician who composed and performed Dhrupad music at the Mughal court of Emperor Akbar. Tansen's compositions were often in praise of Hindu gods and goddesses, as well as kings and emperors.

What is Dhrupad music?

- Dhrupad is a classical Indian vocal music style that emphasizes poetic qualities and the purity of the raga.
- The word Dhrupad comes from the Sanskrit words Dhruva (structured or unmoving) and pada (word or poem).
- Dhrupad is divided into four parts: Sthaayi (base), Antara (intermediate), Sanchari (free flowing), and Aabhog (completion).
- Dhrupad is known for its slow and deliberate melodic development, which gradually accelerates into a rhythmic pulse.

What are some of Tansen's compositions?

- Tansen's compositions were often in Braj Bhasha, a dialect of Hindi.
- Tansen's compositions were often in praise of Hindu gods and goddesses, such as Ganesha, Saraswati, Surya, Shiva, and Vishnu.
- Tansen also composed compositions to eulogize kings and emperor Akbar.

Let us listen some interesting MUSIC

[01] "Shakti"- Tansen's Dhrupad "Kara Kapal lochan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb8JPYqQudo> [8:17]

[02] Tansen I Vol 1 I Audio Jukebox I Classical I Vocal I Various Artistes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1Oe4u_OtPo [1:05:03]

Tansen is known as the 'Sangeet Samrat' - meaning 'the Monarch of Indian Music' who holds the most distinguished position in the arena of Indian cultural

tradition. He was the foremost musician of the Royal Court of Akbar. Known to have created many ragas, which now hold prominent position in Hindustani music, Tansen left a treasure-house of music for the world. This album features seven tracks in the voice of Ustad Rashid Khan, Meeta Pandit, Nirmalya Dey and the legendary Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty.

Track: Raga Lalit

Artiste: Rashid Khan

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Bilashkhani Todi

Artiste: Meeta Pandit

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Miyan Ki Todi

Artiste: Nirmalya Dey

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Deskar

Artiste: Ajoy Chakraborty

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Poorbi

Artiste: Ajoy Chakraborty

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Bageshree

Artiste: Nirmalya Dey

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Kedar

Artiste: Rashid Khan

Music Label: 2003 Living Media India Ltd.

[03] pandit siyaram tiwari | dhrupad in raag bageshri | tansen dhrupad | indian classical music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDfzIJHF56g> [1:13:13]

Siyaram Tiwari (10 March 1919 - 1998) was an Indian classical singer and leading exponent of Dhrupad-genre of Hindustani classical music. He belonged to the Darbhanga gharana and was based in Patna. Though Darbhanga gharana is known for its laykari (the play on laya or tempo, using devices such as syncopation) techniques, he was the first exponent of the gharana to promote fast-paced laykari in Dhrupad, which developed in the second half of 20th-century.

In 1971, he was awarded the Padma Shri by Government of India. Thereafter in 1984, he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship the highest honour conferred by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.

He is the Maternal Grandfather of Indian Television actress Neha Sargam. She is an talented singer herself and has been lauded for her acting and singing in popular musical play Mughal é Azam.

Pandit Siyaram Tiwari's grandson Dr. Sumeet Anand Pandey is recognised as a young maestro and one of the talents in this field to watch out. After receiving his childhood training from his grandfathers, Shri Birendra Mohan Pandey and Pandit Siyaram Tiwari, he was fortunate to get rigorously trained under Pandit Abhay Narayan Mallick, grand nephew and master disciple of Pandit Ram Chatur mallick of Darbhanga Mallick family. Sumeet is AIR graded, ICCR empaneled, SPICMACAY enlisted artist having received many awards and scholarships including those by Ministry of Culture, Govt of India. He has performed extensively in India and Europe. Pandit Siyaram Tiwari Memorial Sangeet Trust is a registered non-profit started by Sumeet in 2014 which works to preserve.

[04] Tansen - A Jewel of Indian Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB_agCdYXyk [13:49]

In this video, we talk about the 16th century musician Tansen, his life and career. Not only a fascinating figure in himself, but also one of the most celebrated and influential in the development of Hindustani music.

[05] Tansen | Vol 2 | Audio Jukebox | Vocal | Classical |

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=435aayz5OH0> [1:05:08]

This album is a collection of 14 original compositions of the legend Tansen, who came to be known as the monarch of Indian music. The album displays a variety of thoughts that inspired Tansen.

Track: Raga Gaud Malhar
Artist: Meeta Pandit
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Miyan Ki Malhar
Artist: Nirmalya Dey
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Darbari Kanhada
Artist: Ajoy Chakraborty
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Basant
Artist: Meeta Pandit
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Durga
Artist: Nirmalya Dey
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Malkauns
Artist: Ajoy Chakraborty
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

Track: Raga Bhairavi
Artist: Rashid Khan
Music Label: Living Media India Ltd.

[06] 100th Tansen Samaroh- Dhrupad Recital by Pt. Brijbhushan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZpc6ZfInTk> [1:05:25]

[07] A Tribute to Tansen | Gundecha Brothers | Dhrupad
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIAT1GBH3cg> [1:19:12]

Album: A Tribute to Tansen
Vocals: Ramakant Gundecha, Umakant Gundecha
Pakhavaj: Akhilesh Gundecha

Tanpura: Nirant Gundecha, Amita Sinha

Studio: ASA Music

Tracks:

0:00 Raga Malkauns - Poojan Chali Mahadev

10:32 Raga Bihag - Mahakaal Mahadev

20:12 Raga Madhmad Sarang - Tum Rab, Tum Saheb, Tum Hi Kartar

31:19 Raga Gurjari Todi - Tero Bal Pratap

38:47 Raga Megh - Prabal Dal Saaj Jag

51:15 Raga Suha - Shubh Mahurat Subh Ghadi Din

01:03:12 Raga Bhairav - Saghan Ban Chhayo

Description:

Featuring special narration by the artistes.

Swami Haridas, a mystic-musician and renowned guru of the early 16th century, is thought to have had an innate knowledge of classical music gained through numerous spiritual and devotional practices. Born around 1480, he became an ascetic at an early age he moved to Vrindavan, the legendary forest of Lord Krishna, where he devoted himself to yoga and music.

He is credited with a large body of Dhrupad compositions, which not only had a major impact on classical music but also influenced the Bhakti devotional cult, particularly including devotees of Lord Krishna and his consort Radha.

Though details of his life are sparse (and mostly preserved through oral traditions), Haridas also gives his name to a spiritual movement known as Haridasi which still has a sizeable following in North India. His compositions gained such widespread popularity that immensely gifted musicians from every part of India sought to go into pupillage with the reclusive master.

Tansen (born c.1508) was one such student. Probably North India's greatest and most famous musical figure, he eventually became one of the navratan ('nine jewels') at the court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar (r.1542-1605). Tansen was sent to Vrindavan where he remained with Swami Haridas for a decade before becoming court musician at Gwalior, followed by musical patronage from Raja Ram Singh at Rewa.

During this time, Tansen continued experimenting with sound and composing a vast repertoire of dhrupads and although a Muslim, many of his songs were in praise of Hindu deities. He was primarily a beenkar (veena player), but his vocal abilities were said to be outstanding, helping strengthen the links between veena and dhrupad.

There are numerous stories about his powers as a singer - when he sang the springtime Raag Bahari, plants would begin to flower; with Raag Megh Malhar, clouds would start forming and burst into rain; and with Raag Deepak ('flame') fires would break out and oil lamps would light up spontaneously.

It was on hearing such stories that Emperor Akbar is said to have sought Tansen for his court and, by making him one of the nine jewels of the Mughal Empire, conferred upon him not only the status of the most elevated musician in the land but also one who was also highly influential in political, diplomatic and judicial matters.

Although the details of Tansen's early years are often unclear, and his legendary status often overshadows fact, his presence at Akbar's court resulted in his subsequent musical life being meticulously documented by Akbar's diarist, Abul-Fazl. Akbar conferred the affectionate title of Miyan (meaning a young man of some standing) upon Tansen, although some sources claim he earned this title whilst at Gwalior.

Tansen went on to compose some of the best-known raags performed today: Miyan ki Malhar (ki meaning 'of' or 'pertaining to'), Miyan ki Sarang and Miyan ki Todi and the majestic Darbari, dedicated to the Emperor.

The Senia gharana tradition, named after Tansen, exists to this day, and countless musicians claim to be direct descendants of the great man. In addition to the compositions and legendary performances, musicologists revere Tansen as Indian music's greatest codifier because, at that time there were thousands of raags - many overlapping, with a maze of confusing names - which Tansen analysed in great detail, reducing them to the five hundred or so that form the basis of today's music.

Despite Tansen's greatness, legend has it that he was challenged by, and lost to, another pupil of Swami Haridas, an outstanding musician of the time nicknamed Baiju Bawra (bawra meaning 'crazy'). A dhrupad singer, he had also been a court musician at Gwalior. but his early life is not easily verifiable despite a sizeable body of folklore about his vocal prowess. To further complicate matters, there appear to be two great musicians known as Baiju, separated by some 300 years, only one of whom could have been Tansen's contemporary.

An Indian film, Baiju Bawra (released in 1952), gets some very good, though largely fictionalised, dramatic mileage from the famous Tansen-Baiju singing contest. In real life, both Abul Fazl and later Mughal historians have recorded that Tansen touched Baiju's feet to acknowledge his victory, but Baiju, perhaps the greater musician, is said to have withdrawn into obscurity, leaving Tansen unencumbered to bask in his larger-than-life status.

Baiju Bawra (1952) (HD & Eng Subs)

Hindi Full Movie - Meena Kumari

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CF35-vCIkFY> [2:34:51]

[08] Dhrupad | Raag Jog - Pandit Ritwik Sanyal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ9itwBCaxU> [1:36:36]

Experience the transcendent beauty of Indian Classical Raga Music Dhrupad in this enchanting live performance by the legendary Pandit Ritwik Sanyal. This captivating performance, recorded live in the beautiful and serene landscape of Goa, is a testament to India's rich musical tradition. Allow yourself to be swept away by Dhrupad's rich melodies and mystical rhythms as these outstanding musicians take you on a trip through the soulful depths of Indian Classical Music.

Alap: 00:00

Jod: 28:38

Jhala: 41:31

Chand Gaan: 55:05

Drut Jhala: 59:52

Pyari Tere Nain (Choutal): 1:06:30

Yogivar Jay Shiva (Sooltal): 1:20:48

Dhrupad Vocal: Pt. Dr. Ritwik Sanyal

Vocal Support: Ribhu Sanyal

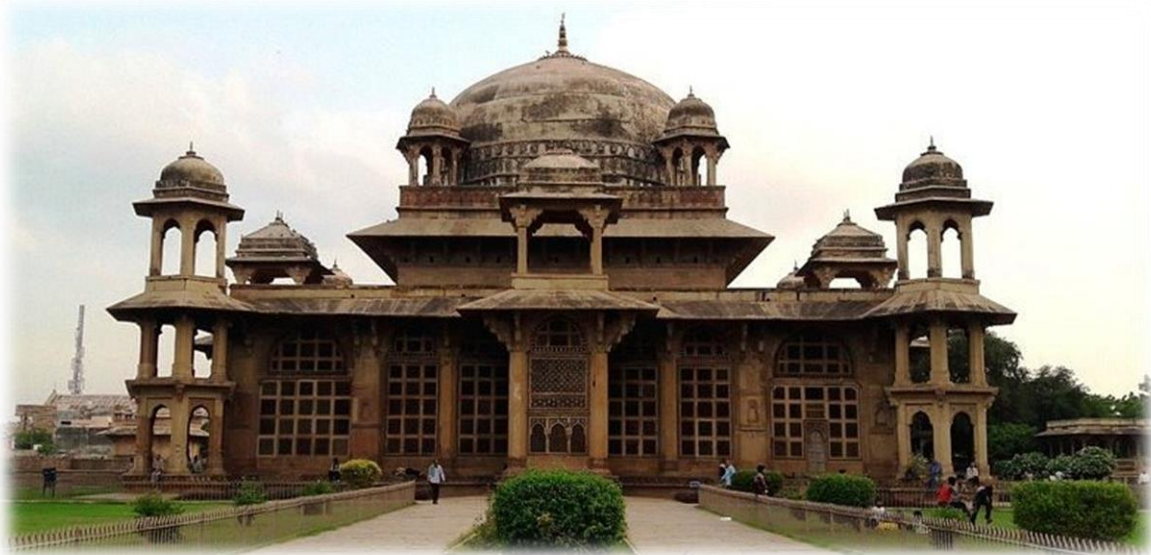
Pakhawaj: Shri Kishor Teli

Tanpura: Chiara Barbieri & Atreyee Bose

Raag: Jog

Tansen Tomb Tourism

<https://travelsetu.com/guide/tansen-tomb-tourism>



Tansen Memorial in Gwalior is a remarkable tribute to one of India's greatest musical maestros, Tansen. Located in the heart of Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, this memorial stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Tansen and his immense contributions to Indian classical music. The historical significance of the memorial, the life and achievements of Tansen, and the cultural importance of this iconic site make this memorial a prime tourist attraction of Gwalior.

The Life and Legacy of Tansen: Tansen, whose full name was Ramtanu Pandey, was born in 1493 AD in a small village near Gwalior. His journey from a humble

beginning to becoming one of the most celebrated musicians in Indian history is nothing short of inspiring. Tansen's early exposure to music came through his father, a poet and musician himself. Under his guidance, Tansen displayed prodigious talent from a young age. Tansen's musical prowess was not limited to a single genre. He mastered both Hindustani and Carnatic music, making him a versatile musician of his time. His expertise in Dhrupad and Khayal forms of music earned him fame and recognition across the subcontinent. He was often regarded as one of the "Nine Jewels" in the court of Mughal ruler Akbar due to his exceptional musical abilities.

One of the defining moments of Tansen's life was his association with the Mughal court. Akbar recognized Tansen's unparalleled talent and invited him to be a part of his court. This move elevated Tansen's status and allowed him to flourish as a musician and composer. His compositions, which are now an integral part of Indian classical music, continue to be revered and performed to this day.

Tansen's Contribution to Indian Classical Music: Tansen's contribution to Indian classical music is immeasurable. He played a pivotal role in shaping the Hindustani music tradition as we know it today. Some of his notable contributions include:

Raag Darbari Kanada: Tansen is credited with the creation of the renowned Raag Darbari Kanada. This complex and melodious raag has enthralled audiences for centuries and remains a cornerstone of classical music.

Dhrupad and Khayal: Tansen's mastery over both Dhrupad and Khayal forms of music showcased his versatility. His compositions in these styles continue to be an integral part of classical music education and performances.

Innovations in Music: Tansen introduced numerous innovations in music, including the use of intricate ornamentation and melodic embellishments. His techniques enriched the musical landscape of his time.

Guru-Shishya Tradition: Tansen's influence extended beyond his compositions. He also established a tradition of 'guru-shishya' (teacher-student) relationships, where he trained several disciples who went on to become prominent musicians themselves.

Tansen Memorial in Gwalior: The Tansen Memorial in Gwalior is built to pay homage to this musical legend in a grand and fitting manner. This memorial

complex encompasses several significant elements, each contributing to the overall experience of visitors:

Tansen's Tomb: The centerpiece of the memorial is Tansen's tomb. It is believed that Tansen was buried in Gwalior upon his request, as he wished to be close to the tomb of his spiritual guru, Hazrat Ghaus. The tomb is a beautifully designed structure adorned with intricate Mughal architecture and inscriptions.

Akbar's Palace: Adjacent to Tansen's tomb is Akbar's Palace, where Tansen served as one of the "Nine Jewels" in Emperor Akbar's court. The palace has been preserved and converted into a museum that houses various artifacts related to Tansen's life and the Mughal era.

Tansen Music Festival: Gwalior is known for its annual Tansen Music Festival, which celebrates Tansen's musical legacy. This festival attracts renowned musicians and music enthusiasts from all over India. It is a vibrant showcase of classical music and dance performances held in the backdrop of Tansen's memorial.

Tansen's Samadhi: In addition to his tomb, there is a memorial structure known as Tansen's Samadhi, which serves as a place for reflection and homage. It is beautifully designed and features lush gardens that provide a serene environment for visitors.

Cultural Significance: The Tansen Memorial in Gwalior holds immense cultural significance. It serves as a symbol of India's rich musical heritage and the enduring legacy of Tansen. Here are some aspects of its cultural importance:

Preservation of Heritage: The memorial complex and museum play a crucial role in preserving and showcasing Tansen's life and contributions. It educates visitors about the history of Indian classical music and its evolution.

Promoting Classical Music: The Tansen Music Festival held annually at the memorial is a platform for promoting classical music and dance forms. It attracts both established and emerging artists, contributing to the continued growth of Indian classical arts.

Tourist Attraction: The Tansen Memorial is a major tourist attraction in Gwalior. It draws music enthusiasts, history buffs, and tourists from all over the world, contributing to the local economy and tourism industry.

Educational Center: The memorial also serves as an educational center, offering workshops, lectures, and demonstrations on classical music. It plays a vital role in

passing down the knowledge and traditions of Indian classical music to future generations.

The Tansen Memorial in Gwalior stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of one of India's greatest musical maestros. Tansen's life and contributions to Indian classical music continue to inspire musicians and music enthusiasts alike. This memorial complex not only pays homage to his memory but also serves as a hub for the promotion and preservation of India's rich cultural heritage. As visitors explore the tomb, the museum, and the serene surroundings, they are transported back in time to the era of Tansen and Akbar, gaining a deeper appreciation for the beauty and depth of Indian classical music.



Ideal visit duration: 1-2 hours

Closed in: Open all year

Tansen Tomb, situated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India, is the mausoleum of the great classical musician Miyan Tansen, one of the nine gems of Emperor Akbar's court. The tomb is nestled in the vicinity of the Gwalior Fort, which spans an enormous area and showcases the rich tapestry of India's history. Tansen's Tomb is a fine piece of Mughal architecture, which is surrounded by a lush garden known as the Tansen Bagh, making it a peaceful and contemplative spot. This place is not only significant to history buffs but also to music enthusiasts who come here to commemorate Tansen's contribution to Indian classical music. Every year, a music

festival named 'Tansen Samaroh' is held near the tomb, attracting artists and spectators from across the country. This festival celebrates the musical genius of Tansen with various classical music performances. The simplicity of the tomb's design, with beautiful gardens around, brings serenity to the ambiance, in contrast to the bustling city of Gwalior.

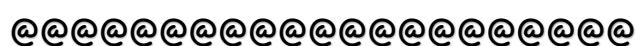
Read Less

Opening and Closing time of Tansen Tomb

Monday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Tuesday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Wednesday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Thursday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Friday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Saturday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM
Sunday	Open: 08:00 AM Close: 06:00 PM

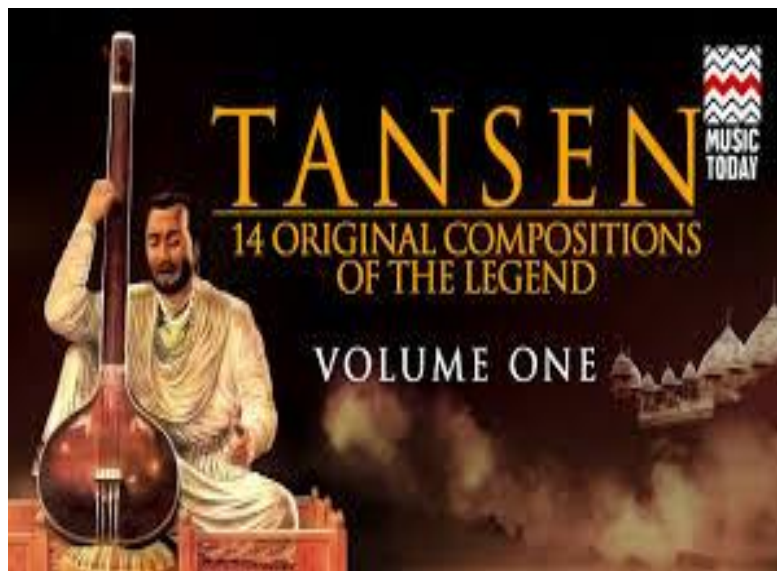
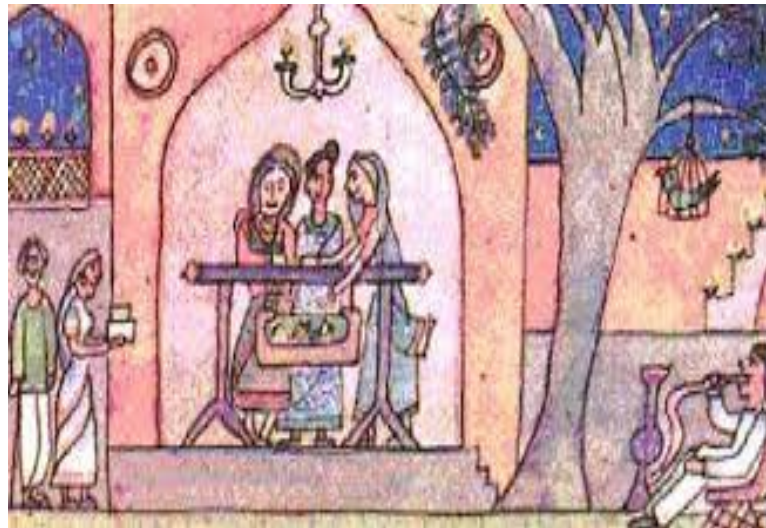


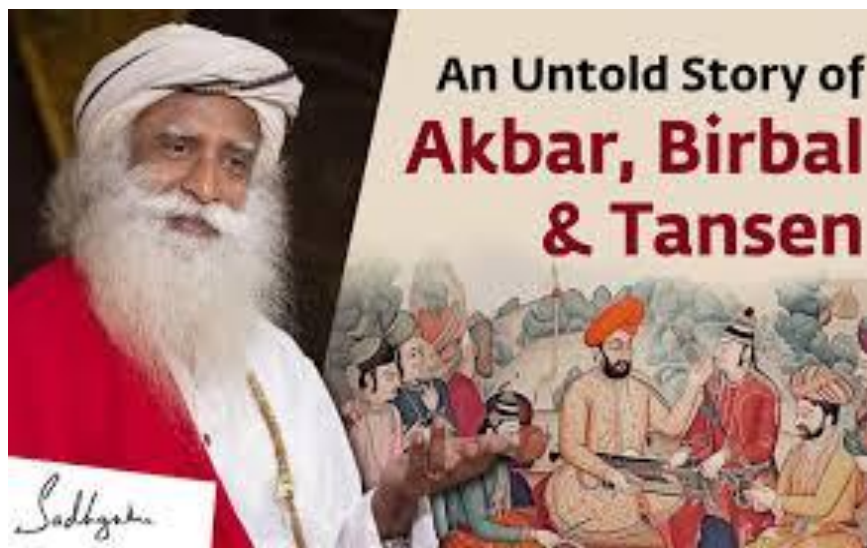
Muhammad Ghaus Memorial, Gwalior





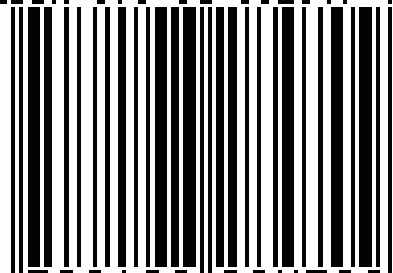








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